

What is claimed is:

1. A docking module for use with conventional small form factor disk drives,
comprising:

a housing member having a plurality of slots;

5 a plurality of tray loaders for holding small form factor disk drives, each said slot being
configured to receive each said tray loader;

a connecting means for connecting said small form factor disk drive to a host, said small
form factor disk drive having a first connector;

10 an engaging and disengaging means for disconnecting said connector of tray loader from
said host;

a slide means within said housing for moving said tray loader within said housing.

2. A docking module according to claim 1, wherein said tray loader consists of a second
connector for connecting said first connector of said small form factor disk drive, a third
connector electrically connected to said second connector.

15 3. A docking module according to claim 2, said connecting means consists of a PCBA
back plane having a fourth electrical connector for connecting to said host, a plurality of fifth
connector for removably connecting to said third connector of said tray loader.

4. A docking module according to claim 3, wherein said engaging and disengaging
means is a button attached to a lever mechanism for disengaging said third connector of said tray
20 loader from said fifth connector.

5. The docking module according to claim 4, wherein said tray loader has a nominal
width up to 2.75 inches and a nominal depth up to 4 inches and a nominal height up to 0.8
inches.

6. The docking module according to claim 5, wherein said slide means is a slide mounted
25 within said housing and connected to the said button, whereby said slide moves within said
housing when said button is depressed.

7. The docking module according to claim 6, wherein said tray loader has an EMI shield.

8. A docking module for use with conventional small form factor disk drives,
comprising:

30 a housing member having a plurality of slots;

a plurality of tray loaders for holding small form factor disk drives, each said slot being configured to receive each said tray loader;

a connecting means for connecting said small form factor disk drive to a host, said small form factor disk drive having a first connector;

5 an engaging and disengaging means for disconnecting said connector of tray loader from said host;

a slide means within said housing for moving said tray loader within said housing.

9. A docking module according to claim 8, said connecting means consists of a PCBA back plane having a second electrical connector for connecting to said host, a plurality of third
10 connector for removably connecting to said first connector of said small form factor disk drive.

10. A docking module according to claim 9, wherein said engaging and disengaging means is a button attached to a lever mechanism for disengaging said first connector of said tray loader from said third connector.

11. The docking module according to claim 10, wherein said tray loader has a nominal
15 width up to 2.75 inches and a nominal depth up to 4 inches and a nominal height up to 0.8 inches.

12. The docking module according to claim 11, wherein said slide means is a slide mounted within said housing and connected to the said button, whereby said slide moves within said housing when said button is depressed.

20 13. The docking module according to claim 12, wherein said tray loader has an EMI shield.

14. A tray loader for holding a small form factor disk drives, comprising:

A plastic cover for holding said small form factor disk drive;

an EMI shield.

25 15. A docking module for use with conventional small form factor disk drives, comprising:

a housing member having at least two slots;

two tray loaders for holding two small form factor disk drives, each said small form factor disk drive having a first connector, each said tray loader having a second electrical
30 connector for electrically and removably connecting to said small form factor disk drive, a third connector electrically connected to said second connector, each said slot being configured to

receive each said tray loader, said tray loader having an EMI shield, said tray loader having a nominal width up to 2.75 inches and a nominal depth up to 4 inches and a nominal height up to 0.8 inches;

a PCBA back plane having a fourth electrical connector for connecting to said host, two fifth connectors for removably connecting to each said third connector of said tray loader.

a button attached to a lever mechanism for disengaging said first connector of said tray loader from said third connector;

a slide mounted within said housing and connected to said button, whereby said slide moves within said housing and carries said tray loader when said button is depressed.

16. A docking module for use with conventional small form factor disk drives, comprising:

a housing member having at least two slots;

two tray loaders for holding two small form factor disk drives, each said small form factor disk drive having a first connector, each said slot being configured to receive each said tray loader, said tray loader having an EMI shield and a nominal width up to 2.75 inches and a nominal depth up to 4 inches and a nominal height up to 0.8 inches;

a PCBA back plane having a second electrical connector for connecting to a host, two third connectors for removably connecting to each said first connector of said small form factor disk drive;

a button attached to a lever mechanism for disengaging said first connector of said tray loader from said third connector;

a slide mounted within said housing and connected to said button, whereby said slide moves within said housing and carries said tray loader when said button is depressed.